

New Jersey's Pet Purchase Protection Law

Purchasing a Pet

consumer**brief**

Consumers who purchase a cat or dog that becomes seriously ill or dies may be entitled to restitution under New Jersey's Pet Purchase Protection Law.

The complete law may be read by clicking here: [Pet Purchase Protection Act](#)



PET SHOP REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE LAW

- An animal must be examined by a veterinarian within 5 days of being offered for sale;
- Examination results must be included in the animal history and health certificate;
- Each cage must have a label with the sex, breed, date and place of birth and date of initial vet examination of the animal; *AND*
- If an animal was examined more than 14 days before it is purchased, the pet must be re-examined within 3 days of delivery to the consumer (unless the consumer declines the re-examination in writing).



CONSUMERS' RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW

The consumer may be entitled to restitution if an animal becomes sick or dies after purchase and a veterinarian certifies that the animal was unfit for purchase.

It is the consumer's responsibility to have the animal examined by a veterinarian and to obtain the written certification. **This certification is required** in order to apply for restitution and must be presented to the pet store where the animal was purchased.

CONSUMER RESTITUTION

Different types of restitution are available to the consumer. **It is the consumer's decision about what form of restitution to accept.**

The restitution choices include returning the animal and receiving a refund or a replacement animal, or keeping the animal and being reimbursed for veterinary fees.

After the consumer selects restitution, the pet store must provide the restitution within 10 days.

Consumers can call Consumer Affairs to file complaints against pet stores – **1-800-242-5846** (toll free within N.J.) or **973-504-6200**.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

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